

Topic: FADT References Committee - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar - Spoken QoN - Public Hearing
13Feb26

Senator Raff Ciccone

Question

Senator CICCONE: For clarity, did Australia issue a statement to mark the fifth anniversary of the elections on 1 February?

Ms Smith: Yes, we did. The Foreign Minister issued a statement on 1 February marking five years since the coup.

Senator CICCONE: In terms of the content of that statement, just very briefly—

Ms Smith: Certainly. We noted that the people of Myanmar have endured escalating violence, widespread human rights violations and severe humanitarian suffering. We noted: that the crisis continued unabated, the figures that I outlined a little earlier about the sheer numbers of people in need in the country, the fact that the economy has contracted significantly, and that transnational and serious organised crime has flourished, threatening regional stability. Concerns about elections were highlighted in that statement, noting that the conditions in which the elections occurred did not meet those for free, fair and inclusive elections. We repeated the fact that we've consistently condemned the regime's brutal and ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar, continued to judge the Myanmar military by its actions, continued to support ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus as the framework for addressing the situation, and we urge its full implementation.

The statement also noted that Australia looks to the incoming Myanmar authorities to put in place measures that reflect the Five-Point Consensus—including cessation of violence, safe and unhindered humanitarian access without discrimination for all those in need, and a commitment to genuine, inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders—and called for the release of all those unjustly detained. The statement noted that Australia is ready to support genuine efforts to alleviate humanitarian suffering, improve economic and social conditions, and advance a sustainable resolution to the ongoing crisis. We continue to stand with the people of Myanmar, sharing their ambitions for a better future.

Senator CICCONE: It's fair to say that **Australia has probably taken a public position on elections on multiple occasions**, and you've obviously issued multiple statements. In the same light, **maybe take that on notice, in light of time, if you could provide information to the committee. Further to that, has Australia then regularly issued statements regarding the conduct of the regime?**

Ms Smith: Yes, we have. If you'd like further detail on that, **I can take that on notice.**

Senator CICCONE: If you could, that would be great. We could get some of those flavour of those statements or any other further detail you can provide.

Ms Smith: Certainly.

Answer

Australia regularly issues statements expressing concern about the situation in Myanmar. We consistently urge the regime to cease violence, release those unjustly detained, allow unimpeded humanitarian access and engage in inclusive dialogue. Recent statements include:

- 1 February 2026 – Statement by the Foreign Minister marking the fifth anniversary of the coup
- 10 December 2025 – Australian Government statement on Myanmar, issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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- 30 September 2025 – Statement from Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, Mr James Larsen, outlining Australia’s concerns at the UN High-Level Conference on Rohingya.
- 25 August 2025 – Australian Government statement issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to mark the eighth anniversary of the Myanmar military’s attacks against Rohingyas.

Australia consistently raises concerns about the human rights situation in Myanmar in the United Nations Human Rights Council, including on 8 September 2025 at HRC60, 27 June 2025 at HRC59, 19 March and 28 February 2025 at HRC58.